

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

27 August 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

The Durban University of Technology, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, offers you a full COVID-19 vaccination programme at King Edward VIII Hospital. All staff and students who are 18 years of age and older are urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. You can book your appointment for a quick and easy vaccination by emailing ewp@dut.ac.za (for DUT staff) or francesh@dut.ac.za (for DUT students).

When it comes to vaccination, the best time to get vaccinated is now, so don't hesitate, vaccinate! If you would prefer to go to a vaccination centre closer to where you live, there are many sites to choose from. Click on the following link for a list: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/active-vaccination-sites/>

If you are able to, please register on the national Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) before going for vaccination. You can click on this link: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

You can also register via your mobile phone by dialling ***134*832*IDNumber#** (if you do not have an ID number, please dial ***134*832#** instead). Or you can register via WhatsApp by sending the word **REGISTER** to the number: **0600 012 3456**

If you are unable to register in advance, you will be registered at the vaccination centre.

KZN now the epicentre of the third wave

KwaZulu-Natal is now the epicentre of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. Officially, KZN has nearly 59 000 people infected with COVID-19 and this figure is climbing fast. Yesterday, 12 771 people had sadly tested positive for COVID-19 in South Africa, including 3 627 in KwaZulu-Natal.

COVID-19 has disrupted our lives for 17 months now. We have had to radically adapt our ways of life, including how we learn, how we teach and how we behave. This adaptation to our new environment has been vital to prevent the further mass spread of COVID-19 via person-to-person contact within the DUT community and in our country.

The most effective way out of the situation in which we find ourselves is through vaccination. Although it is not widely reported, research shows that the vast majority (over 70%) of adults in South Africa are in favour of vaccinating against COVID-19. Together with wearing a mask, social distancing, hand hygiene and avoiding crowds and poor ventilation, vaccination is the most effective step that we can take to regain control of our lives. It is the right thing to do and should be viewed as being part of our civil duty.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for the DUT community:

Total number of positive cases:	298
Total number of staff who tested positive:	163
Total number of students who tested positive:	135
Number of new cases to report:	10
Number of new cases (students):	3
Number of new cases (staff):	7
Location of new cases:	9 in Durban & 1 in Pietermaritzburg
Number of recoveries:	276 (128 Students & 148 Staff)
Total number of deaths:	10 (3 Students & 7 Staff)
Total number of active cases:	12 (3 Students & 9 Staff)
Has contact tracing commenced for new cases?	YES
Has disinfection taken place for new cases?	YES

We pray for the safe return to good health for all those who are fighting the infection.

At this time, during the third wave of the pandemic, we appeal to the members of the DUT community to please follow the basic prevention measures: **avoid gatherings** wherever possible and **avoid poorly-ventilated venues**, you must **wear a mask** securely covering your nose and mouth, **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres away** from all other persons, **clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser - and **get vaccinated** if you are 18 years or older. If we follow the guidelines and abide by the public health protocols, we can limit the further spread of disease.

Please take care, stay safe and vaccinate.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team